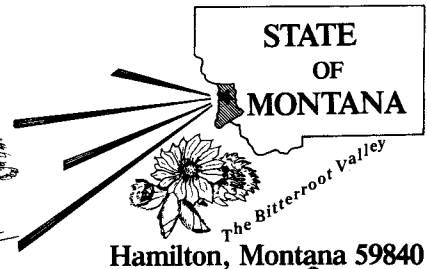
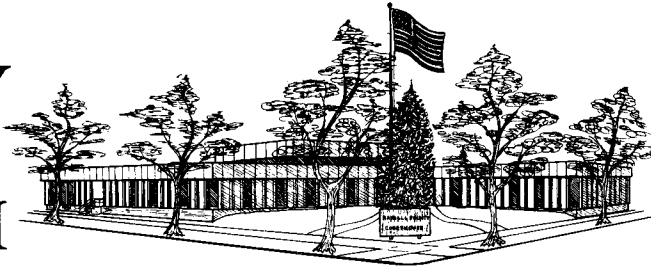


COUNTY OF RAVALLI



Hamilton, Montana 59840

Ravalli County Commissioners
215 South 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-376-6500

EXHIBIT

DATE

HB

January 28, 2011

Chairman Walter McNutt
Montana House of Representatives
Long Range Planning Appropriations Subcommittee
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Re: Support of Phase 3 LiDAR Mapping for Ravalli County

Dear Chairman McNutt:

The Bitterroot River and its floodplain is the dynamic centerpiece of Ravalli County and arguably one of our most valuable natural resources. The Board of County Commissioners is dedicated to careful stewardship of our unique river system while keeping in mind the needs of our citizens and protecting their health and safety. This requires intelligent well-informed governmental policy with the use of high accuracy information in order to strike a balance between conservation, management, development, and preservation of this natural water resource.

On behalf of the citizens of Ravalli County, the Board of Commissioners is unanimous in its endorsement of this third, and final, LiDAR mapping project phase. This project will culminate our efforts to gain detailed two-foot contour elevation data for private lands surrounding the Bitterroot River. The first two mapping phases, also funded by the RRGL program, were widely successful and have already provided county officials, local businesses, and private citizens alike with a flexible land use decision making tool. Using the LiDAR data collected to date, our floodplain administration has been able to ensure that our citizens' flood safety is maximized while still providing private property owners with the most land use flexibility possible.

LiDAR elevation data from our first two project phases is currently being utilized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to update the County's floodplain maps which will give the maps new state-of-the-art precision. It is essential that this final phase of LiDAR mapping be completed to continue the identification of flood-prone areas so that the appropriate steps may be taken to ensure that the County's growing population is reasonably safe from flooding.

The Board of County Commissioners requests that you help us conclude this highly successful mapping project and provide the funding that will make this final project phase a reality. Pending the completion of our LiDAR project, Ravalli County would like to utilize our positive experiences with LiDAR mapping, and funding from the RRGL program, to become a leader for other Montana communities with similar mapping needs. Ravalli County can offer the assistance of our floodplain

administration to provide these communities with support in project formulation, grant writing, and project administration.

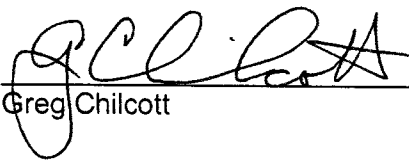
This final LIDAR mapping project phase will provide a holistic countywide floodplain management tool that offers numerous ancillary benefits to our citizens which simultaneously expand public health and safety, protect natural resources, and preserve individual property rights. It is our commitment to ensure the project is carried out as specified in the application and to make this data available to all who will benefit from the information produced.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

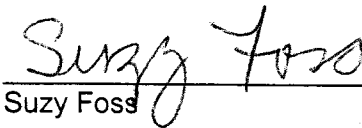
Sincerely,



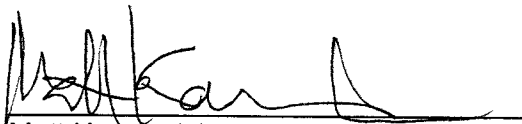
J.R. Iman, Chair
Ravalli County Board of Commissioners



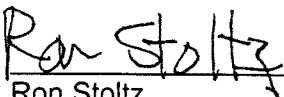
Greg Chilcott



Suzy Foss

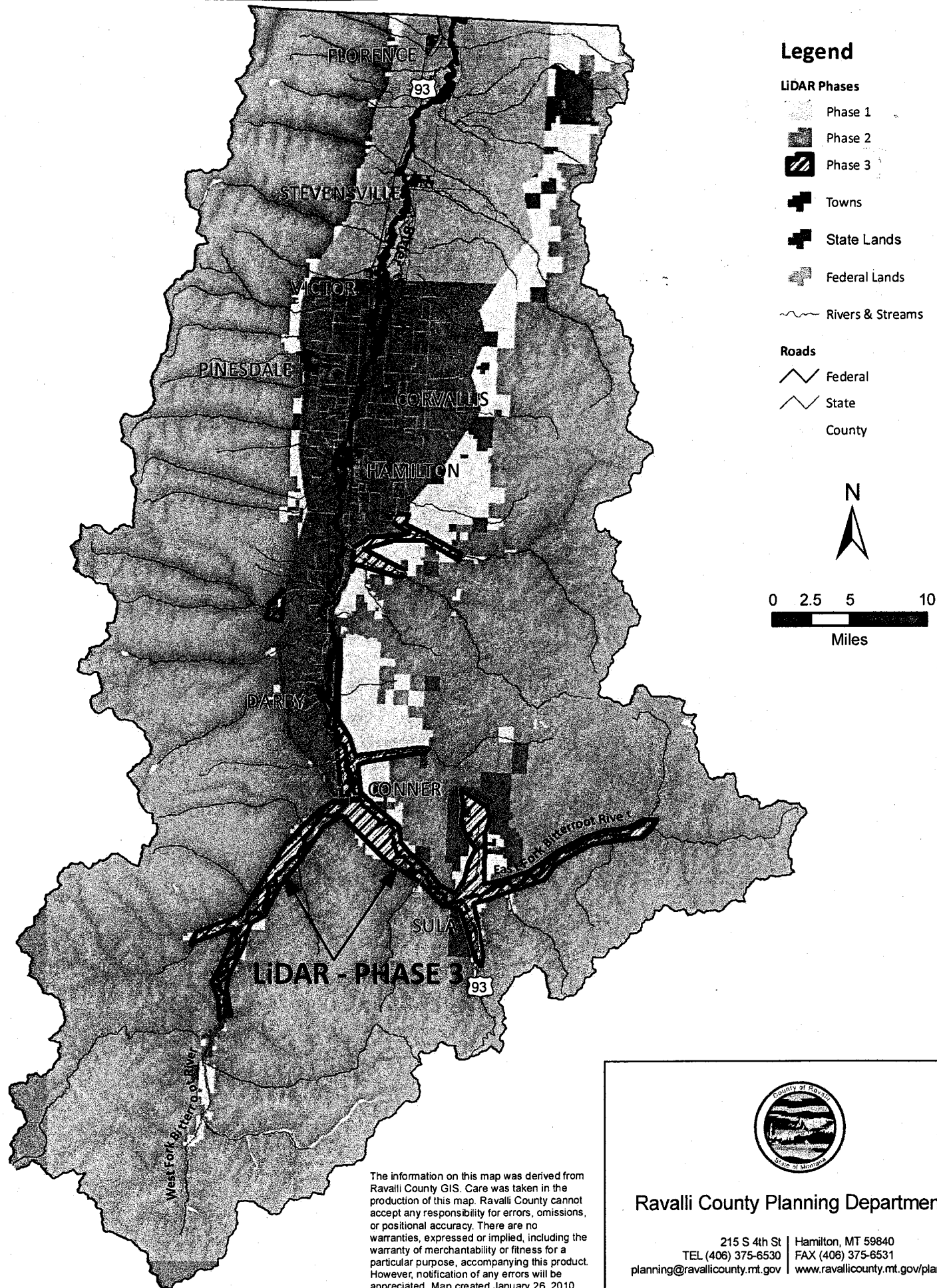


Matt Kanenwisher



Ron Stoltz

Ravalli County LiDAR Mapping - Phase 3



The information on this map was derived from Ravalli County GIS. Care was taken in the production of this map. Ravalli County cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional accuracy. There are no warranties, expressed or implied, including the warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, accompanying this product. However, notification of any errors will be appreciated. Map created January 26, 2010.



Ravalli County Planning Department

215 S 4th St | Hamilton, MT 59840
 TEL (406) 375-6530 FAX (406) 375-6531
planning@ravalliacounty.mt.gov www.ravalliacounty.mt.gov/planning/